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October 10, 2007

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
Chairwoman  
Committee on House Administration  
Subcommittee on Elections  
102 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lofgren:

I know you share with me an appreciation for the importance of our Subcommittee's work in ensuring Americans have the utmost confidence and integrity of our elections process, including the fairness of the process by which we debate and enact laws related to Federal elections.

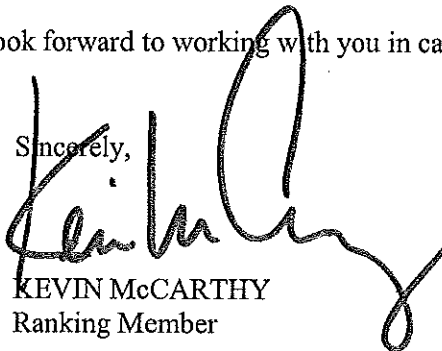
While we may disagree on policy issues, I am sure that we can agree that the American people expect that both sides of those issues enjoy full and fair debate. That is why, for example, we grant equal time to proponents and opponents of legislation on the floor of the House.

Particularly on election issues, the American people deserve nothing less than to be fully apprised of the arguments on both sides of these important issues. It is in this spirit that I propose that in hearings before our Subcommittee, the Majority and Minority receive parity in the number of witnesses permitted to testify. We have an important hearing this Tuesday October 16, 2007, with regard to expanding and improving absentee voting and vote by mail programs. I understand the Majority has invited three witnesses to testify, which would be in addition to the testimony of the author of the bill. In order to ensure fairness to the treatment of this important subject matter, the Minority would also like to invite three witnesses to testify:

- Jonathan Bechtle, Evergreen Freedom Foundation
- Curtis Gans, Committee for the Study of the American Electorate
- Norman J. Ornstein, American Enterprise Institute

I appreciate your support and look forward to working with you in carrying out the important work of this Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



KEVIN MCCARTHY  
Ranking Member